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§2–404.

- (a) In this section, "obsolete rank" means a rank designated by the Secretary to which no further promotions will be made.
 - (b) The Secretary shall make all promotions.
- (c) (1) Promotion to a rank, except deputy secretary, shall be made in the manner required by rule.
- (2) For a noncommissioned rank that has fewer than 25 police employees, the Secretary by rule may direct that it is unnecessary to fill the noncommissioned rank for purposes of promotion.
- (3) (i) This paragraph does not apply to a rank that requires technical knowledge.
- (ii) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a police employee may not be appointed or promoted to a rank unless the police employee:
- 1. is bypassing an obsolete rank and currently fills the rank immediately below the obsolete rank; or
- 2. has filled the rank immediately below the rank to which the police employee is to be promoted.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may appoint without examination:
- (i) a police employee who holds a commissioned rank to the rank of Major; and
- (ii) a police employee who holds a commissioned rank of not less than Captain to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.
- (2) A police employee appointed in accordance with this subsection continues to serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on termination of an appointment under this subsection, the police employee may:

- (i) return to the rank held before the appointment; or
- (ii) be promoted to a higher rank to which the police employee became eligible for promotion during the appointment.
- (e) An incumbent police employee in an obsolete rank remains in that rank until promoted, demoted, retired, or terminated.
- (f) Promotions of civilian employees shall be made in accordance with the State Personnel and Pensions Article.

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